



**Director of  
Central  
Intelligence**

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# **National Intelligence Daily**

***Saturday  
15 May 1982***

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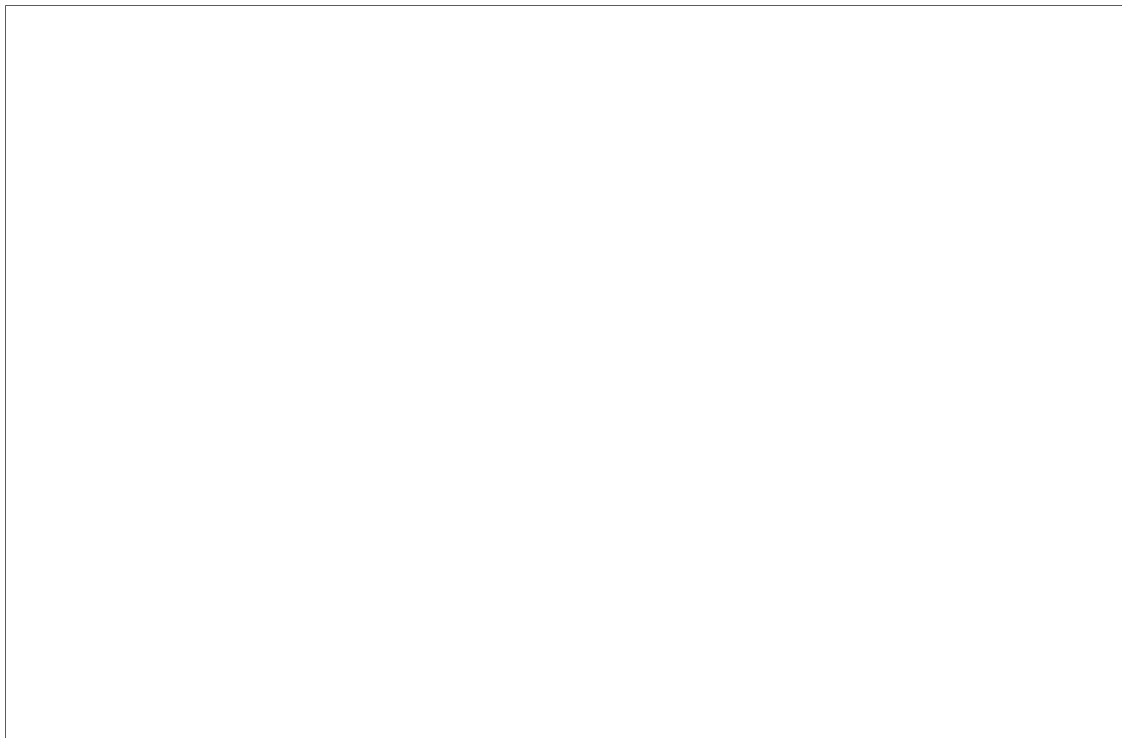
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② USSR: Possible Initiatives on START and INF

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*President Brezhnev probably will make a major statement on arms control in a speech on Tuesday to the Komsomol Congress, which begins two days before the INF talks formally reconvene.* [redacted]

A senior diplomat in Moscow, citing "high-level" Soviet sources, told a US official that Brezhnev will respond on Tuesday to President Reagan's START proposals. Brezhnev allegedly will endorse the idea of negotiations but criticize Washington's proposals. To encourage US supporters of the SALT II Treaty, he "very likely" will call for its ratification. [redacted]

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Comment: On START, Brezhnev probably will reiterate some of the basic criticisms of the US proposals that have surfaced this week in the Soviet press. Nonetheless, he is likely to state that Moscow welcomes the renewal of the strategic arms dialogue and may suggest that SALT II ratification could be an interim step until a more far-reaching agreement is negotiated. [redacted]

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On INF, Brezhnev--while not proposing major concessions--probably will again claim that the USSR is willing to negotiate major reductions if the US responds favorably to Moscow's initiatives. The USSR almost certainly hopes to convince West European audiences that it is indeed interested in a compromise on INF. Brezhnev probably will charge that the US is not approaching the INF talks seriously and dismiss the US zero option as unrealistic. [redacted]

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